

National Capital Commandery Commemorates the 1941 Attack on Pearl Harbor

December 7, 2024 marked the 83rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941. Each year the National Capital Commandery honors this event and its historical significance.

At 12:15 Eastern Standard Time (8:15 Pacific Time) representatives from the commandery conducted a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, on a hill overlooking the nation's capital city. Captain John Rodgaard organized the ceremony.

The four wreath bearers were companion MCPO David Mattingly and his wife, Jean Marie Mattingly, and companion CDR Janette Arencibia and her fiancé, Hendrik Jonkers. Just after the hourly Changing of the Guard, an Old Guard soldier announced the wreath-laying and led the wreath-bearers from the steps of the Memorial Amphitheater to the Tomb. The Old Guard Bugler held the wreath and passed it to the wreath-bearers, who placed it in front of the Tomb. The Bugler played taps amidst the silence, while onlookers gave reverence to those who perished and those who carried on at Pearl Harbor.

That evening the National Capital Commandery held a commemorative Pearl Harbor dinner at the Fairfax Country Club in Fairfax, Virginia. Approximately 60 people attended to enjoy companionship and remembrance. The evening began with cocktails, followed by dinner and a guest speaker. Commander John Shanahan served as emcee for the evening. Xepher Winkler sang the National Anthem. Our chaplain, CDR Janette Arencibia, gave the invocation. MCPO David Mattingly drew attention to the POW/MIA Remembrance Table.

At the end of the dinner, Dr. David Winkler introduced the guest speaker, CDR Mark Stille (USN Ret.) who spoke on "The Myths of Pearl Harbor." Captain John Rodgaard led a toast to "the courageous defenders of Pearl Harbor." CDR Janette Arencibia gave the benediction, after which Mr. John Shanahan bade everyone a good evening and a safe journey home. Many thanks to Mr. Peter Pennington who arranged the venue and managed the evening's audio-visuals.

Submitted by Judy Pearson, PhD

Photos and captions

Photo 1: Old Guard Bugler holding the wreath representing the Naval Order

Photo 2: Commandery wreath bearers lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Photo 3: Naval Order representatives at the Pearl Harbor wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. L-R: Capt. William Steagall, CDR Alex McMahon, Dr Judy

Pearson, LCDR Marc Henderson, Chief Purser Julius Jackson, Mrs. Jean Marie Mattingly, MCPO David Mattingly, CDR Janette Arencibia, Mr. Hendrik Jonkers, Ms. Kay Casey, Mr. John Shanahan, Capt. John Rodgaard.

Photo 4: Pearl Harbor Commemoration Dinner speaker CDR Mark E. Stille, (USN, Ret)

Photo 5: Mr. John Shanahan as Emcee for the Pearl Harbor dinner

Photo 6: Captain John Rodgaard led the toast.

Photo 7: Dr. David Winkler and his daughter Xepher Winkler

Photo 8: LCDR Marc Henderson (USN, Ret.) and his father, Col. Mark Henderson (USA, Ret.)